

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

1. The Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators (Teachers) is an intensive post-graduate level academic program with integrated study tours whose purpose is to provide foreign secondary educators the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The ultimate goal of the Institute is to strengthen curricula and to enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in secondary schools and other academic institutions abroad. Posts and prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our website page to obtain general information about the Institutes. The address is: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

2. Pending FY 2017 funding and final ECA grant approvals, the Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators will take place over the course of five weeks in the beginning of June 2017. This year, only one Institute for Secondary Educators will be offered, with a focus on classroom teachers. The Institute will have 20 participants and will include a four week academic residency component and a one week integrated study tour.

INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION:

3. **The Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators (Teachers)** will provide one multinational group of **20** experienced secondary school teachers with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture – past and present. The focus of the Institute will be on providing content and materials for participants to develop high school level curricula about the United States. Please note that the main focus of the Institute for teachers is on content and materials about the United States rather than teaching methods and pedagogy. To this end, the Institute is organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches, program content will examine the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values, broadly defined. The program will also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society. The four week academic residency will be complemented by a one week study tour. The aim of the study tour is to showcase the cultural, geographic, and ethnic diversity of the United States. Pending ECA grant approval, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will host the Institute for 20 teachers beginning in June 2017.

APPLICATION:

To apply you have to write a short essay conveying your interest in participating in the Institute, what you expect to gain and what you will contribute to the Institute. The personal statement should also address how you will leverage the experience to achieve other potential outcomes. In addition, the essay should describe your capacity to amplify the impact of the program beyond your research and knowledge. Limit your essay to 250 words.

Submit the essay along with your CV to GaburAG@state.gov no later than December 30, 2016, 11:59PM.

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

4. **Program Funding:** Through a Cooperative Agreement to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, ECA/A/E/USS will cover all participant costs including: international travel, program

administration; travel and ground transportation in the United States; housing and subsistence; and book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances.

5. Housing and Meal Arrangements: Participants may be asked to share living quarters during the residency portion (four weeks) of the Institute. Private room accommodations cannot be guaranteed during the residency portion of the program. During the study tour (up to one week), participants may share a hotel room with a participant of the same gender. During the residency, housing will typically be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will provide full details in pre-institute communications to participants at least six-weeks in advance of the Institute.

6. Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

7. Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of up to \$100,000, with a \$25 co-pay per medical visit and a \$75 co-pay per emergency room visit, for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered. Information on the health benefit program may be found online at usdos.sevencorners.com.

8. Program Requirements and Restrictions: All participants are expected to participate fully in the program. Selected participants must attend all lectures and organized activities and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program. Candidates should be made aware that this is an intensive Institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The Institute is not a research program.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

9. Study of the U.S. Institutes are highly competitive. Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have no or limited prior experience in the United States, and who have special interest in the institute topic as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties.

10. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated and experienced secondary school teachers. Ideal candidates are individuals who are seeking to introduce or enhance aspects of U.S. studies into their curricula or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies or related fields. While the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect of the Institute is equally important.

11. Candidates **must** demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to fully and actively participate in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the Institute, both for your participant and participants from other countries.